

On a new Species of Bat from Zambesia.

By Dr. J. KIRK.

NYCTICEJUS NIDICOLA.

Fur brown, the base of the hairs blackish; beneath yellowish. Ears ovate, acute, with a well-developed rounded process at the front part of the outer or lower edge. Tongue linear lanceolate, acute, rather more than half the length of the ear. Face depressed, bristly. Wings elongate, thin, bald, rather hairy above and below close to the body; forearm-bone nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; the thumb compressed, rather elongate, slender, of a single joint. Tail as long as the body. The interfemoral membrane very large, broad, with nearly regular, almost parallel transverse muscular bands, which are hairy on the upper and lower surface. The spur elongate, strong, nearly as long as the fore leg and foot; the spur and the end of the membrane fringed with short, rather rigid hairs. The legs rather elongate; the lower part of the thigh slender; the shank slender, not quite half the length of the arm-bone; the toes moderate, slender, compressed, covered with short adpressed hairs.

Expanse of wings 10 inches, of forearm-bone 1.5 inch, of fore leg 8 inches, of foot 3 inches, of spur $9\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Shupanga, near the Zambesi.

Four specimens were obtained; they had taken possession of the nests of Weaver-birds (*Euplectes*). Having accidentally found a pair in one of these hanging nests, others were soon discovered in similar positions near by.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* Dec. 13, 1864.

Preservation of Starfishes with their Natural Colours.

By A. E. VERRILL.

Starfishes may be dried, so as to retain their natural colours almost unimpaired, by immersing them in alcohol of moderate strength for about a minute, or just long enough to destroy life and produce contraction of the tissues, and afterwards drying them rapidly by artificial heat. The drying is best effected by placing them upon an open cloth stretched tightly upon a frame and supported a few feet above a stove. Care should be taken not to raise the heat too high, as the green shades change to red at a temperature near that of boiling water. By this process I have succeeded in preserving the delicate shades of red, purple, and orange of the species found on the coast of New England, including *Solaster papposus*, *S. endeca*, *Cribella*, *Asteracanthion nallide*, *A. littoralum*, and various other species, specimens of which are preserved in the Museum of Yale College.

The same process is equally applicable to Echini and Crustacea.—*Silliman's Journal*, March 1865.